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cont

server 41, which may be any suitable server. A provider system 45, a first consumer computer 42, and a second consumer computer 44 may be connected to Internet web page server 41, or any other suitable server, through any suitable Internet connections 43.

The amendments to the description are indicated in red ink on the enclosed marked-up copy.

REMARKS

FIG. 3 has been amended to remove the duplicate use of reference numeral 32.

The specification has been amended to make the use of reference numerals consistent with its use in the drawings.

No new matter has been added.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix Showing Changes to the
Originally Filed Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 31 and ending at page 8, line 12:

Turning back to FIG. 1, if the request to transfer the item is authorized, system ²~~3~~ may then present information to consumers, including a second consumer 5, at step ¹²~~19~~. Information may be provided in the form of an advertisement or as part of an auction system. In response to this information, a second consumer 5 may indicate a willingness to receive the item via an auction or in response to a posted advertisement, for example. Once a second consumer ⁵~~16~~ has been found, the participation of system 2 in the transfer may be complete and consumers 3 and 5 may close the transfer through steps 14 and 15. As illustrated, closing the sale may include second consumer 5 sending money to first consumer 3 at step ¹⁵~~14~~ and first consumer 3 sending the item to second consumer 5 at step ¹⁴~~15~~.

The paragraph at page 11, lines 8-18:

The systems and methods of the present invention may be implemented using any suitable communication network. One embodiment of such a communication network 40 is shown in FIG. 4. As illustrated, transfer system ²~~14~~ may be implemented as a web site that is hosted on an Internet web page server 41, which may be any suitable server. A provider system 45, a first consumer computer 42, and a second consumer computer 44 may be connected to Internet web page server 41, or any other suitable server, through any suitable Internet connections 43.

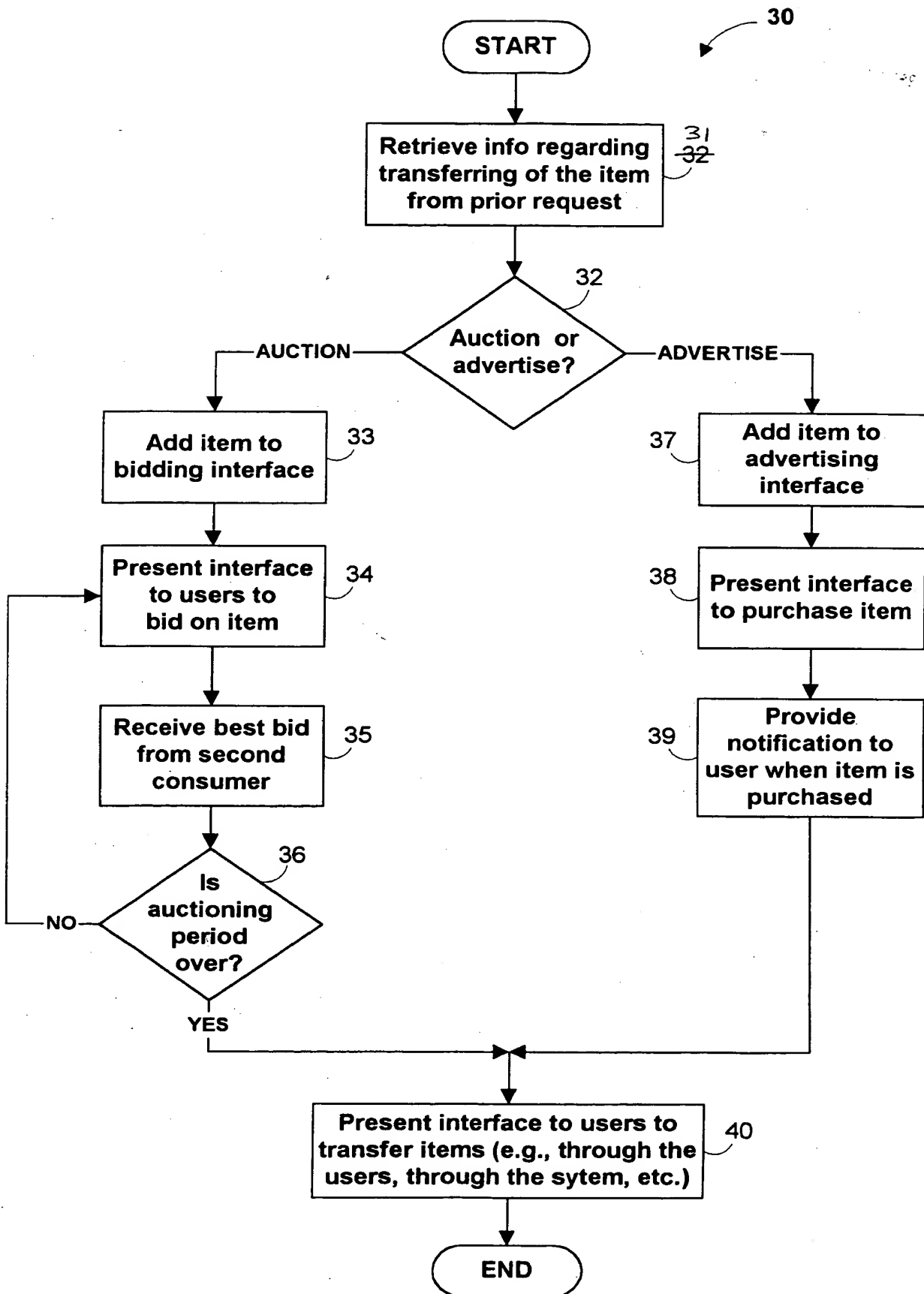


FIG. 3